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COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Tories To Win

BY this time tomorrow, B Hongkong can expect to have a pretty good idea of whether the Conservatives remain the governing political party in Britain, or if they are to be superseded by the Socialists. In 1951, with just over half the seats accounted for, Labour had 'lost' eight key constituencies and it was possible to forecast with accuracy that the Tories would take over the government: a similar trend tomorrow would justify the same conclusion.

Throughout the election campaign the popularity polls have favoured the Conservatives, some going so far as to indicate a landslide with the Tories obtaining a House of Commons majority of up to 100 seats. But these tests of public opinion can never be considered conclusive, particularly as they cannot hope to determine how voting will develop in the 44 marginal constituencies, the results of which are capable of decisively swinging the fortunes of either Socialists or Conservatives.

But vague though they are in their approach to voters in an endeavour to assess popular political opinion, the straw polls this year are backed by a number of practical considerations. The housewives, whose votes are all-important, have a variety of reasons for helping to return the Tories to power.

FIRST among them is the knowledge that the housewife can shop freely, obtain anything and in any quantity within the family budget. The psychological effect of this new freedom has been profound, and the women voters are not likely to forget that it was the Conservative government which brought all rationing to an end less than a year ago.

Nor is their satisfaction with this state of affairs likely to be adversely affected by the all-round increase in commodity prices. These were somewhat startling when the last of the official controls were removed, but most daily commodities have now found their true price levels, and wage adjustments have allowed the average family to enjoy more food and other necessities without imperilling their financial resources.

Six months ago, when the retail price of tea soared to around nine shillings a pound, and the British housewife became an extremely irate and frustrated person, the Conservatives would probably have been voted out of office, but since then there has been a marked fall in tea prices, and the housewife is no longer threatened with being deprived of what is to her, an integral daily asset and necessity.

THESE may appear to be rather insignificant factors in influencing the women's vote; they are, in truth, vital, as every British politician is fully aware. It is fair to assume that the "floating" female vote will very largely go to the Tories in today's election.

There are other considerations of wider appeal likely to favour the Conservatives, principally a popular Budget. And running a close second is the prospects of top-level Big Four conferences which the whole of the British electorate hope will lead to positive results in finding solutions to current nerve-wracking international problems.

The Conservatives have many things in their favour, including a good record of governing during the past three and a half years. They can expect to be returned today with a majority of up to fifty.

General
Election

Contest
On Domestic
Issues

LAST-MINUTE PLEAS

London, May 25.

Britain wound up its fourth postwar election campaign in tense calm tonight with Sir Anthony Eden's Conservatives a confident 5-to-1 bookmakers' favourite for victory in tomorrow's vote.

Next move was up to 35 million Britons who are expected to go to the polls, beginning at 7 a.m. The final verdict was due on Friday, some time after noon.

If they chose a return to Mr Attlee's Socialists and the Welfare State, it would be the biggest upset since Sir Winston Churchill was swept from office by a landslide in 1945. It was Sir Winston's resignation last month which put Sir Anthony in office.

But all the weathervanes indicated otherwise. All the public opinion surveys were forecasting a Tory win by between 50 and 100 seats. Just over 1,400 candidates are contesting the 630 seats in the new Parliament.

Douglas Stuart, one of London's biggest bookmaking firms, said it was laying 5-to-1 against a Labourite win. "Betters think it's a sure thing and we aren't taking any more money on the Conservatives," a spokesman told the United Press.

If the Conservatives are returned to office for another five years, it will mean Britain believes the promises of continuing "Tory prosperity" and wants Sir Anthony to speak for her at the four-power meeting with Russia which handed him his biggest campaign boost.

The Socialists said he used the top-level talks as a vote-getting stunt. "Send Attlee—You can trust Mr Attlee" their election posters said. The issues were mainly domestic—free enterprise under a "property-owning democracy," in Sir Anthony's phrase, versus more cradle-to-the-grave security and nationalisation of basic industry—since there was little disagreement on foreign policy.

Both Conservative and Labour official policy favoured building the hydrogen bomb, although the Socialists want an immediate ban on further nuclear tests. Both believe in the Atlantic alliance, NATO, and close ties with the United States.

Both would like to see Communist China recognised and admitted to the United Nations.

China Mail &
Election
Results

In order to give the fullest possible coverage of the British general election results, the China Mail tomorrow (Friday) will publish two editions. The first will be on the streets between 11.30 a.m. and 12 noon, and will give the state of parties up to 11 o'clock Hongkong time. The second and final edition will be published during the afternoon, and is expected to give the state of the parties when counting closes in England for the night, by which time it is probable that half of the total results will be known.

Sir Anthony, 57, and his Socialist opponent, quiet, typical middle-aged Mr Attlee, 72, and probably fighting the last election of his career, wound up the campaign in their home constituencies of Warwick and Leamington, and West Walthamstow, Sir Anthony pleaded for a big majority "so that we can get on with the job."

Party headquarters called a 50-seat majority a working majority, while over 100 could be labelled a Tory landslide. In the last Parliament they held only a slim 321-294 margin over Labour. That gave them a majority of 21 over the

TORIES START 5-1 FAVOURITES

Relieved Of
His Post



Admiral Robert Carne, who has been relieved of his post as Chief of Naval Operations by President Eisenhower.

Big 4 Talks: July 18
Will Suit Britain

London, May 25.

The Foreign Office stated tonight that neither the date nor the venue for the Big Four "summit" conference had been agreed but diplomatic sources said July 18 was acceptable to Britain.

They were commenting on reports from Paris that it had been agreed in principle that the four-government leaders would meet from July 18 to 21.

The government here hopes it will be possible to reach agreement with Russia on both the date and place of the meeting before the Big Four foreign ministers meet in San Francisco on June 20. If these decisions are left until then it might be difficult to arrange in time accommodation for the official delegations and more than 1,000 reporters and cameramen expected to attend the conference.

Britain, France and the United States are likely to agree on July 18 as the opening date of the top-level meeting and the

FORMER PREMIER OF
S. VIETNAM ARRESTED
Situation Becomes Explosive

Saigon, May 25.

The South Vietnam Revolutionary Committee arrested a former Premier, Mr Tran Van Huu, today in a move which threatened to explode yet another political crisis in this strife-torn State.

Mr Huu, a powerful and influential politician, was taken into custody at Tay Ninh, the capital of the Cao Dai sect and brought back to Saigon under house arrest. It was not known whether the Prime Minister, Mr Ngo Dinh Diem, would support the action by the Revolutionary Committee.

The Committee, though rumoured to be the power behind Mr Diem, has no legal authority whatsoever.

Mr Huu's arrest added another under to an already explosive situation which included these developments.

Reports that large-scale fighting between Government troops and Hoa Hao rebels is taking place in the lower Mekong could not be confirmed but officials said that an all-out battle could flare up momentarily.

The Government has charged that Mr Diem's arch enemy, former Army Chief of Staff General Nguyen Van Binh, is advising the Hoa Hao command in the Mekong, and that Gen. Binh will call on various national army units to desert the Prime Minister.

The Hoa Hao and the Binh Xuyen sect, thrown out of Saigon in bloody fighting earlier this month, have threatened to blockade Saigon tonight so tightly that "not a single grain of rice will get through."

OFFENSIVE EXPECTED
The Government offensive to break the Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen hold on the rice growing areas of the Mekong basin was expected at any moment.

But it has not yet started, military sources here said. Today's action, according to a military communiqué, included the blowing up of two bridges by the rebels, an ambush of a Government-munitions convoy and the disarming by National Army troops of two Hoa Hao companies which had been surrounded by superior Government forces. No casualty figures were given.

The Government has rushed 30 battalions into the threatened area and placed them under the command of Col. Le Van Duc, who is regarded by French Army circles as the most brilliant operational soldier in the Vietnam National Army.

Col. Duc is opposed by 40,000 well-armed guerrillas of Hoa Hao Generals Ba Cut and Tran Van Soai and possibly by his own former Commander-in-Chief, 39-year-old General Binh—United Press.

US BACKING
Washington, May 25.

Premier Ngo Dinh Diem can count on continued support from the United States in his campaign against the Hoa Hao sect and the remnant Binh Xuyen dissidents, officials said today.

The official Washington view is that Mr Diem represents a legal government of the people and the troops deploying against him are fighting in the law of the land.

State Department officials said today that the United States was paying "very close attention" to the developing situation in South Vietnam. But they would make no formal comment on the grounds that Mr Diem was acting in a strictly internal matter.

There is little concern here over the deployment of the

Terrorists
Slay 6
In Ambush

Constantine, May 25.

A French administrator, a French officer and four Algerian scouts were found dead on the road from Quantis to Tebessa today, and a mobile group of about 30 Algerian rural police has disappeared, following a terrorist ambush yesterday.

The heads of the administrator and officer had been crushed while the throats of the Algerian scouts had been slit. Vehicles belonging to the convoy had been burned or overturned.

The group which set out yesterday for Tebessa from Quantis informed their Quantis headquarters by radio when the ambush began. The rural police disappeared with their arms and radio equipment.

Two companies of infantry and a helicopter are now patrolling the area where the attack took place. The authorities believed the terrorists were the same when Quantis was attacked last week—France-Press.

Russians Due
In Belgrade
Today

Belgrade, May 26.

Soviet leaders, headed by Nikita Khrushchev, will arrive today (Thursday) at Zemun airport, near Belgrade, for talks with President Tito, the newspaper Politika announced.

The newspaper said they would be met at the airport by President Tito and other members of the Yugoslav Government.

Politika said it expected that priority would be given in the talks to the study of new measures for improving relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Then the leaders of the two countries would review the international situation.

It was expected the Belgrade conference would disclose the general lines of Soviet foreign policy following the signature of the Austrian state treaty—Reuter.

Tunnel Explosion

Tokyo, May 25.

Two workers were killed and two others seriously injured in a tunnel explosion today in Yuzawa town, Niigata Prefecture, central Japan.

Police reported the accident was believed to have occurred when excavators workers using dynamite misjudged the fuse timing—China Mail Special.

HELICOPTER
TRAGEDY

London, May 25.

A helicopter, crashing today on the jetty of West Tichen, in Sussex, killed a former Air Vice-Marshal of the Royal Air Force, 56-year-old Sir Francis Mellersh, who was standing on the pier.

A passenger in the helicopter, which belonged to the British Navy, was also killed, but the pilot escaped unhurt.

Sir Francis Mellersh, who retired last year from the Air Force, was Commander-in-Chief of the British air units in Malaya from 1949 to 1951—France-Press.

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CALEY
make
wonderful
chocolates

Yugoslavia Expects Positive Results From Talks

IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS

Belgrade, May 26.

The Yugoslav Communist Party paper Borba said today that the forthcoming talks between Yugoslav and Soviet leaders in Belgrade "will give positive results both in regard to improvement of inter-state relations of the two countries and the strengthening of peace in the world."

Borba, quoted by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, said "the Yugoslav delegation led by President Tito expected 'manifest benefits' from the talks with the Kremlin leaders who include Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, the Premier, and Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, the Communist Party chief."

"The past two years which saw the gradual normalisation of relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union have pointed to the need for the examination and settlement by the two Governments of questions of previous inter-state relations as well as other outstanding questions."

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

"Such agreed settlements would constitute a new positive contribution towards a further improvement of Yugoslav-Soviet relations. It would also provide for laying the foundations for equal co-operation, the only sure and sound basis on which relations between countries can rest."

"The realisation of positive results in the Soviet-Yugoslav talks would constitute a new stimulation and a new affirmation of tendencies and efforts for the regulation of conditions in the world for the further easing of tension for the strengthening of peace."

"The Belgrade talks constitute a confirmation of the principle on which Yugoslavia's activity in the international field is based—the principle of the policy of active co-existence."—Reuter.

France-Press adds that the man in the street considers the Soviet visit as something of a preparation for the Communist break with Yugoslavia six years ago and as justification for years of hard work and difficult living. It is expected here that the Soviet Big Three will be received by the population in a cordial but dignified spirit—a contrast with the violent Soviet fervour of 1949 and the bitter hostility to the Soviet Union that marked the years between 1949 and 1954.

The Soviet delegation will be housed on its arrival tomorrow at the Stari Dvor Palace, a white-walled red-roofed villa on the wooded slopes of Desaj, outside Belgrade.

Stari Dvor is situated directly overlooking the White Palace, Tito's residence—and the talks were expected to take place in an informal and private atmosphere in the two buildings. There has been no official announcement either about the contents of the agenda but observers believed the talks would centre on the general international situation and in particular on Yugoslavia's conception "of the principle of active co-existence."

It was believed the Soviet Union might adhere to the principle during the talks. The Soviet leaders are expected to bring up "the question of Germany," but Yugoslav officials have lately shown great reticence on this subject and consider the idea of neutralisation of Germany as impractical. Great stress is being laid in Yugoslav circles on the economic aspects of the discussions. The Yugoslav estimate at around \$450 million the losses they suffered through the Soviet economic blockade, while the Yugoslav debt to the Soviet Union stands at about \$90 million.

As for the ideological issue, the Yugoslavs have stressed their firm intention to keep the forthcoming talks on a purely "state to state" level. They also appear most anxious to clear up any possible misunderstanding with the Western powers over the Belgrade talks, by insisting that an improvement of her relations with the East will not affect Yugoslavia's good relations with the West.

ENVOYS RECALLED

It was learned tonight that the Ambassadors of France, Britain and the United States are to be recalled to their respective capitals for consultations after the Belgrade talks.

Soon after their return, the Ambassadors are to confer with Yugoslav Government representatives on military, economic and political questions at a special conference.

North Korean Charges

London, May 25. The Communist North Korean Government said today that South Korean armed vessels disguised as fishing boats had intruded into the territorial waters of Korea to "smuggle armed agents" into the country, the Communist New China News Agency reported from Pyongyang.

According to the Agency a statement was issued today by North Korean Minister of Internal Affairs saying that if the "American side" again invaded the territorial waters "the coastal guards would take self-defence action and responsibility for all consequences would rest with the American side."—Reuter.

Not An American 'Tramp'

London, May 25. If a man in Britain calls a woman a tramp it does not mean, as it often does in America, that she is loose and immoral.

This ruling was handed down by a judge in the High Court here yesterday when he dismissed an action for slander by Mrs Stella Fields, a 51-year-old London dentist's wife, against company director Mr. Alex Davis.

Mrs Fields contended that the word tramp meant that she



Pictured here are leading members of Britain's Conservative Government in a BBC television studio. They were taking part in a pre-election telecast. Before the programme they held a press conference at which a number of leading London National and Provincial newspaper editors fired questions at the Ministers. They are (left to right) Mr. Iain Macleod, Mr. R. A. Butler, Sir Anthony Eden, Mr. Harold Macmillan and Sir Walter Monckton.—Express Photo.

Alleged Pakistan Blockade Of Afghanistan

Karachi, May 25.

The Afghanistan Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Sardar Mohammed Rafiq, said today he had advised his Government to stop shipping Afghan goods through Pakistan because of the trade blockade on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

He told the United Press that he had lodged a protest with the Pakistan Government against the alleged blockade by Pakistan of the transit of gasoline and industrial equipment consigned to Afghanistan.

Mr. Rafiq said that there were 60,000 gallons of petrol, 20,000 boxes of textile goods and quantities of hydro-electric equipment held by the blockade at points on the Afghan border.

PERMISSION REFUSED

A further consignment of goods for Afghanistan was being held up at the port of Karachi and the Pakistan Government had refused permission for the Bank of Afghanistan to take delivery of these goods for storage. Mr. Rafiq said.

Not only was the Afghanistan border sealed against the transit of Afghan goods but the Pakistan Government was refusing to allow Afghan representatives to store their goods in Pakistan, he said.

Mr. Rafiq said that he had proposed that the Pakistan Government itself should undertake the storage of blocked goods to prevent damage and wastage.

In the meantime, he said, he had advised his Government to issue instructions to foreign suppliers of goods to Afghanistan to halt all shipments through Pakistan.

Mr. Rafiq said that this would affect American aid shipments to Afghanistan as well as supplies to the American engineering company building roads in southern Afghanistan.—United Press.

High officials of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the ceremony as well as members of the American Embassy and the American Army.

Both Senator Artojo and Mr. Lodge praised the friendship existing between the two countries and paid tribute to the memory of General Juan Vigon Suero Diaz, Chief of the Spanish Army General Staff who died yesterday in Madrid.—France-Press.

Santiago, May 25. Chile today handed over to Japan cheques and bonds totalling 6,126,084 pesos, the value of property belonging to the Japanese Legation and Consulate confiscated in the Second World War.—China Mail Special.

French Delegation Arrives Peking

Tokyo, May 25. A French medical delegation arrived in Peking today, the New China News Agency reported tonight.

The delegation is headed by Professor J. Duvigneau, famous heart specialist, Madame Duvigneau, and Professor Dullheim, gynecologist. They have been invited to visit China by the Chinese Medical Association, whose leading members were at the airport to greet them.—France-Press.

Tory Leaders Use TV As Weapon

SOUTH AFRICAN DEBATE OPPOSITION HITS AT GOVERNMENT

Capetown, May 25.

The South African Minister of Justice, Mr. Charles Swart, told the House of Assembly today that the Nationalist Government believed it was in power "by will of God."

He said "the Government does not believe it is in power by chance."

Mr. Swart was speaking during the third day of the debate on the Government's Senate bill which almost doubles the number of members of the Upper House and would provide enough votes to allow the Government to overcome its constitutional difficulties in removing the coloureds (people of mixed blood) from the common voters roll.

ONE-PARTY STATE

Opposition speakers have alleged that the measure would lead to a one-party state in South Africa. The Government claims that it is necessary to carry out "the mandate it received from the people"—to remove the coloureds from the roll and to make Parliament "sovereign."

Mr. Harry Lawrence, a leading member of the Opposition United Party, interrupted Mr. Swart to ask "is it your belief that because of divine guidance everything the Government does must be right?"

The Minister replied: "Certainly not." Mr. Swart challenged a statement by an Opposition member, Mr. Sydney Waterson, yesterday that many English-speaking South Africans might not want to fight for the country in the future.

"I believe there are more than enough English-speaking people in this country who are as good South Africans as we are, and who will stand by the Government in the event of war," Mr. Swart said.

Another Opposition speaker interjected "you never stood with us." Mr. Swart said he hoped the Opposition would dissociate themselves from Mr. Waterson's speech because it was "impossible to live in South Africa in such an atmosphere, as if it had created."

INCITING PEOPLE

He also accused the United Party of "inciting" the people over the bill. He claimed, there had been a number of inflammatory speeches and proposals and said the Government would not hesitate to take action to maintain law and order in the country.

Mr. Harry Lawrence in a speech accused Government speakers of trying to justify the bill on the grounds of divine guidance when it was "a piece of political chicanery."

He told the House "in the nostrils of decent people the bill stinks to high heaven." "The House must realise we are up against two different ways of life in this country—the way of the brigand, the bully and the jackboot and the way of decency." The debate will continue tomorrow.

ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH WEST

Tel-Aviv, May 25.

A special Government meeting was held here today to discuss Israel's relations with the Western Big Three and security problems along Israel's Arab borders.

Israeli Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Moshe Sharett, Defence Minister David Ben-Gurion, and Chief of Staff General Moshe Dayan, heard reports from three Israeli ambassadors, recalled to Tel-Aviv last week for urgent consultations—Mr. Aba Eban from Washington, Mr. Elyahu Eilat from London, and Mr. Jacob Tatz from Paris.

These three ambassadors were scheduled after today's meeting, to draft a report on the Western attitude toward the Middle Eastern situation, to be delivered tomorrow to the Israeli Parliament's Foreign Policy and Security Committee.—France-Press.

NEWSPAPER STOPPAGE IN PARIS

Paris, May 25.

Last-minute efforts to avert a 24-hour printers' strike which will leave most of France without newspapers, failed tonight. Printers did not report for work this evening on the newspapers.

This newspaper stoppage is one of a series of 24-hour strikes called by the French trade unions, aimed to affect bus services, newspaper productions and to hold up shipping.

Many Paris buses stayed in their garages today. Only about two out of every three usually in service were running normally in the middle of the morning, according to a spokesman of the Paris Transport Corporation.

COMMUNIST-LED

The 24-hour strike was called by the Communist-led General Labour Confederation in support of a claim for higher wages. The Socialists and Independent unions shunned the stoppage.

In the newspaper strike the last edition of the mass circulation evening newspaper, France Soir, usually sent by train from Paris to the provinces for distribution next morning, was not printed.

PROTEST

The printers' union called the strike in protest against tomorrow's debate in the National Assembly on a bill which would allow production of newspapers by non-union labour. At present only union labour may be employed.

Paris newspaper publishers issued a communique apologising to their readers for missing an edition and promising to be back on Friday morning.

The strike also asked printers to withhold labour in such a way as to ensure that no newspapers appeared on Thursday.—Reuter.

Girls Under 18 Banned From Beauty Contests

Rome, May 25.

Girls of under 18 will not be allowed to take part in any future beauty contests in Italy, the Under-Secretary of the Interior, Signor Borsari, told a questioner in Parliament today.

He said that there are "inconveniences of a moral order arising from these contests. Signor Borsari added that the police also have instructions to prohibit the use of two-piece costumes in any future beauty show, stating that the "law of public security" confers upon the police such "discretionary powers."—France-Press.

Granted Asylum

Berlin, May 25.

A Canadian soldier, Ralph Bernard Cross, asked and was granted political asylum in East Germany on May 11, the East German ADN news agency reported today.

Cross declared that he went over to the Communists to live in "liberty and peace," the ADN said. He had served in the Canadian army from 1953 to 1955.—France-Press.

EXCHANGE OF TURTLES

New York, May 25. An international exchange of turtles took place at the Bronx Zoo today.

The zoo's expanding turtle collection was augmented by Ko-ko and Yum-yum, the first native Japanese turtles to appear in the reptile house. Gifts from the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, the turtles were presented to Dr. James Oliver, Curator of reptiles, by Miss Kokuko Sasaki and Miss Fumiko Shiba, Japan Air Lines stewardesses, who shepherded the cargo from zoo to zoo.

Dr. Oliver presented two American box turtles to the young women to take back to Ueno Zoo.—China Mail Special.

Minister Attacks Servicemen's Morals

Atlantic City, May 25.

THE morals of American Servicemen and women serving overseas came under attack yesterday at the closing session of the American Baptist Convention meeting.

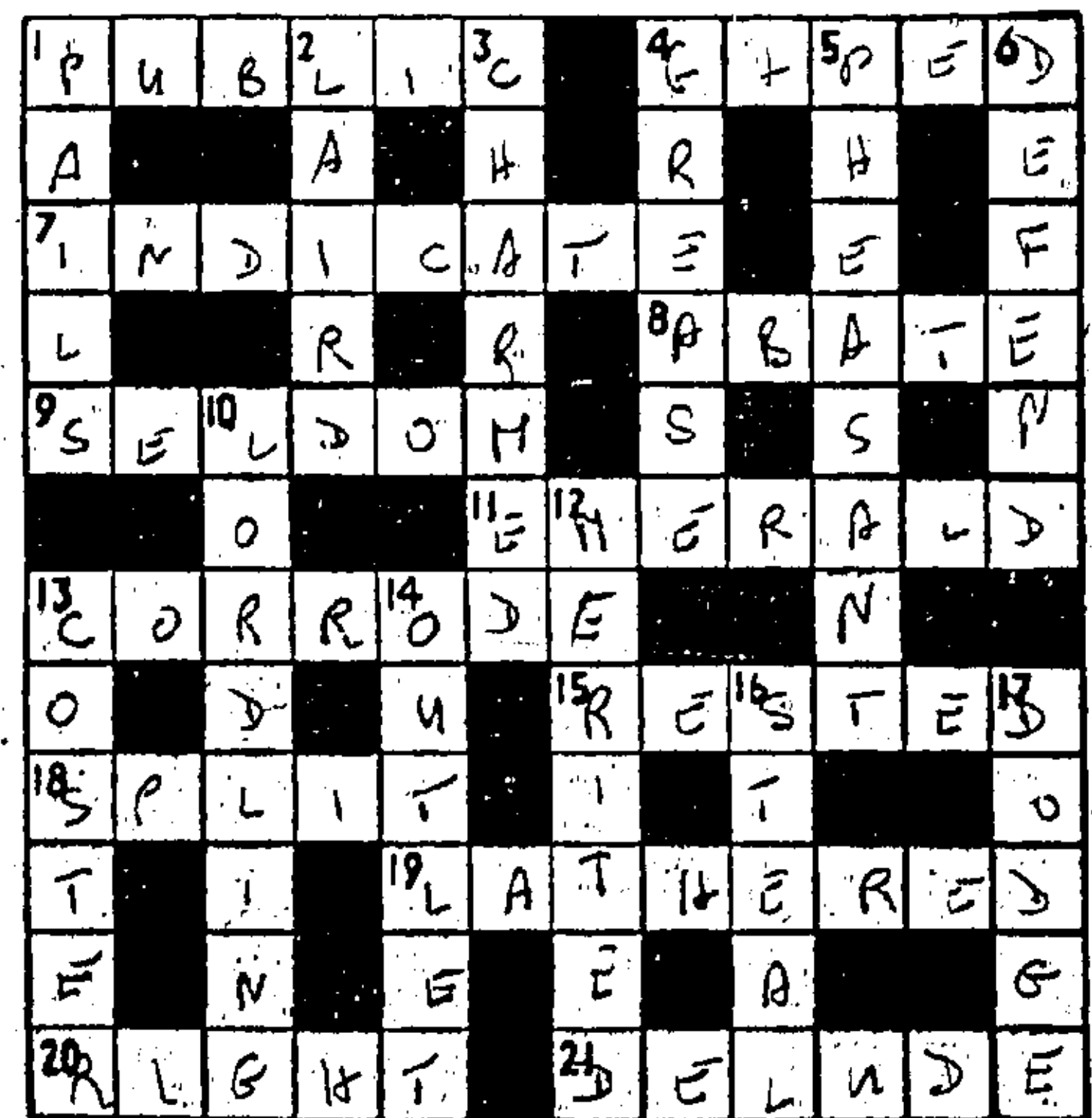
The Rev. Joseph Harberg of New York, Secretary of the Department of Christian Ministry to Service Personnel, urged Ministers to write letters to American Servicemen and women overseas to combat "shacking up," rapes, suicides and other evils in bases abroad.

"The personnel are invited to gamble and drink," he said. "There is endless conversation about illicit, sexual relationships and experiences. Powerful civil forces ready to line their own pockets at the Servicemen's expense, crowded military installations ready to sell dives, dolls and drugs."

Mr. Harberg said a new civilian community has arisen at Misawa, Japan, where there is an American air base.

"Since all in Japan must register their occupations with the Police, we know that in a population of 5,000, there are 1,200 registered prostitutes. This does not include those who are registered as 'only'—supported by only one man. Shacking up, as it is called, is accepted practice."—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Not private (6).
- Yawned (5).
- Point out (5).
- Diplomatic (8).
- Not often (6).
- Prechous stone (7).
- Wear away (7).
- Reposed (6).
- Fluore (5).
- Souped (6).
- Correct (6).
- Deceive (6).

DOWN

- Buckets (5).
- Scottish landowner (5).
- Fascinated (7).
- Lubricate (6).
- Game bird (6).
- Protect (6).
- Minor nobleman (6).
- Deserved (7).
- Street trader (6).
- Vent (6).
- Purloin (5).
- Trick (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1. Pret, 4. Adulate, 8. Rare, 9. Anna, 10. October, 11. Muse, 12. Pump, 14. Enticed, 17. Amis, 19. Haven, 22. Tenants, 23. Lent, 27. Real, 28. Infidel, 29. Iria, 30. Else, 31. Divers, 32. Suet. Down: 2. Random, 3. Tramps, 4. Arise, 5. Decent, 6. Loose, 7. Theme, 12. Part, 13. Mien, 15. Rave, 16. Dent, 18. Street, 20. Allies, 21. Engine, 23. Ennui, 24. Agile, 25. Self.

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★ DON IDDON'S DIARY IN CANADA

MONTREAL'S NIGHT LIFE HAS NOWHERE TO GO

I FIND Montreal, which occasionally calls itself the Paris of the New World, controversial. There is a row about alleged stock swindles on the innocent Americans, argument about a so-called political scandal in the capital, Ottawa, and a debate about the cabarets' closing hours.

Some Montreal people whom I've met are most angry about the night club curfew.

My guide, one of Montreal's best journalists, Monsieur Jules Larochelle, said: "How can we call this another Paris if the mayor is going to shut down cabarets at two o'clock in the morning?"

Having recently been in Las Vegas, where bars and clubs never close, I would welcome any curfew, even at tea-time; but Montreal, the metropolis, has big

city ideas and also it needs American tourists.

The new mayor, Mr. Jean Drapeau, elected on a reform ticket, says the way to drive out the gangsters, who have been blackening Montreal's name, is to clamp down on night life.

The day I arrived a brick was thrown through a window of the mayor's house at four o'clock in the morning. It was ugly vandalism.

After the crooks

MR Drapeau immediately issued a statement which I thought rather restrained. "This is not a prank but definitely a crime."

Later the mayor alleged that underworld elements were after him and revealed that he had received threatening letters.

The Night Club Owners' Association which must be a strange sort of trade union, countered with a statement of their own. They "disassociated" themselves from the brick-throwing incident and added: "We cannot believe that a group of business men like ours, which provides work for 5,000 citizens of Montreal, could possibly resort to terrorism."

This was an interesting start to my Canadian visit, which is going to last a few days; and the interest has been maintained. The mayor is pursuing the crooks with a reformer's zeal, and anyone who knows Montreal knows that a laundering was overdue.

The stock swindling is also on the mayor's list. For months now a small group of racketeers operating out of Montreal and other towns here have been milking gullible Americans,

persuading them to buy worthless shares in uranium mines, goldfields, and copper corporations.

The crusading and publicity-loving Senator, Alexander Willey, is now blaming Canadian stock swindlers for "damaging human hopes and lives," and also, going tens of thousands of dollars from the unfortunate Americans.

The Province of Quebec, following Ontario's example, is going to shut down the bucket shops and save the Americans from their folly. Honest brokers, who outnumber the dishonest by hundreds to one, are demanding action to protect their own business.

The alleged political "scandal" does not strike me as being very serious. In the United States it would not cause a flutter; but Canada must be the incorruptible (modeling itself on Britain) and its Ministers above suspicion.

Raised a storm

ANYWAY, the Minister of National Revenue, Dr. J. J. McCann, is being charged with making political use of information that came to him in his position. He is also being attacked for not resigning his directorships and cutting himself off from his business interests when he took office.

The St. Laurent Administration has been damaged by the McCann hullabaloo, but is so strong that it will easily surmount the storm.

I find Montreal looking sleek and prosperous despite the arguments, but it badly needs a new gateway into the city.

I drove here from New York, about 400 miles, and had to negotiate an extraordinary archaic and narrow bridge across the St. Lawrence and then plunge into some catcombs before emerging in Montreal itself.

The city planners, who are busily scrapping ancient shabby tramcars, should build a new

bridge to dress up their town. I hope they will not resent this mild criticism.

Polio campaign

CANADIANS are particularly proud of the fact that, although half a million of their children have been inoculated with the Salk anti-polio vaccine, there has not been a single case of unfavourable reaction.

At the moment the English, or at least one prominent Englishman, H. R. Trevor-Roper, the historian, are not too popular in Quebec Province.

Mr. Trevor-Roper is being damned for dismissing French Canada as a residual and dying civilisation and also for getting his facts and figures wrong.

I will not go into details as they are too involved; but I must have visited French Canada 30 times during the past few years and one thing I can tell you—it is not dying. It is very much alive.

★ I was dazzled by the company

★ Rich people, too, have their problems

THE DINNER PARTY

by NICHOLAS MONSARRAT



Less than four years ago NICHOLAS MONSARRAT rocketed to renown and riches with *The Cruel Sea*—the nautical novel based on his wartime exploits which has netted a fabulous £200,000. This story has a very different setting—a boyhood holiday in France.

Since Winchester and Cambridge, the versatile son of the Liverpool surgeon has gone far in many directions. Before the war broadcasting and journalism absorbed him, but in 1946 he was appointed Director of the UK Information Office in Johannesburg, where he met his second wife. In 1948 he took to studious work in Ottawa and in the same year his tenth novel—*The Story of Ester Costello*—successfully left the stocks.

THERE are still some rich people in the world; and there were very many more in the enjoyable world of 30 years ago. I hope that no one will be led astray by the fiction that rich people lead dull, boring and frustrated lives; compelled to listen to raucous chamber music every other night, to sit through interminable operas which they do not understand, to bow unwillingly to Royalty and to force down their gullets such dietary dross as *pate de foie gras*, trout in aspic, and champagne.

Please be assured that many of them lead lives of particular pleasure; commanding the finest artists to play and sing exactly what they wish to hear, greeting Royalty on terms of pleasure and intimacy, and eating and drinking precisely by what they want—often *pate de foie gras*, trout in aspic, and champagne.

Behaviour

But rich people do have their problems. They are seldom problems of finance, since most rich people have sufficient sense to hire other people to take care of their worries—whether they are concerned with taxes, politics, the education of their children, the estrangement of their wives, or the greed of their servants.

But there are other, more genuine problems. They are the problems of behaviour.

Let me tell you one such problem, which beset my uncle Octavian a full 30 years ago.

A full 30 years ago, I myself was 15. That is not really important, though it was important to me at the time, on the threshold of the dazzling adult world. More important to this story, my uncle Octavian was then (in 1925) a rich man in the lavish pride of manhood.

He was (as any suitable contemporary will confirm) a charming and accomplished host whose villa on the Cote d'Azur was an accepted rendezvous of the great; and he was (as I will confirm) a hospitable, contented, and most amiable man—until January 8, 1925.

There was nothing special about that day, in the life of my uncle Octavian, except that it was his fifty-fifth birthday. As usual on such

a day, he was giving a dinner party, a party for twelve people. All of them were old friends; two of them, indeed, were what were then called, unambiguously, "old flames." (My uncle, aged fifty-five, would scarcely have found it possible to give a birthday dinner party not attended by at least two such guests. He had long been addicted to what was then called, with equal unambiguity, a "full life.")

I, myself, aged 15, was deeply privileged. I was staying with my uncle at his exquisite villa near Cap d'Antibes; and as a special concession on this happy day, I was allowed to come down to dinner. It was exciting to me to be admitted to such company, which included, besides the two "old flames," a and their respective husbands, a newspaper proprietor of exceptional intelligence, and his fabulous American

wife; a recent prime minister of France and a monumental elder statesman of postwar Germany; and a Hapsburg prince and princess.

At that age, on holiday from school, you will guess that I was dazzled. Even today, 30 years later, one may fairly admit that the company was distinguished. But I should also stress, to give point to this story, that they were all old and intimate friends of my uncle Octavian.

Towards the end of a wonderful dinner, when each of us looked expectantly at his neighbour—then there was silence.

The princess was still smiling though less easily. She was unused to asking for things twice. "If you please," she said,

handsome woman, of regal bearing; I remember the candle light flashing on, and within, the canary-yellow stone, as she turned her hand gracefully towards my uncle.

Across the table, the newspaper proprietor leant across, and said:

"May I also have a look, Therese?"

She smiled, and nodded. Then she took off the ring, and held it out to him. "It was my grandmother's—the old empress," she said. "I have not worn it for many years. It is said to have once belonged to Genghis Khan."

There were exclamations of delight and admiration. The ring was passed from hand to hand. For a moment it rested on my own palm, gleaming splendidly with that wonderful, interior yellow glow that such jewels can command. Then I passed it to my next-door neighbour. As I turned away again, I thought I saw her pass it on. At least, I was almost sure I saw her.

It was some 20 minutes later when the princess stood up, giving the signal for the ladies to withdraw. She looked round us with a pleasant smile. Then she said: "Before we leave you, may I have my ring back?"

I remember my uncle Octavian murmuring: "Ah yes—that wonderful ring!" I remember the newspaper proprietor saying: "By jewel! Mustn't forget that!" and one of the women laughing.

Then there was a pause, while each of us looked expectantly at his neighbour. Then there was silence.

The princess was still smiling though less easily. She was unused to asking for things twice. "If you please," she said,



DRAWING BY KOOLMAN

She looked round us with a pleasant smile. Then she said: "Before we leave you, may I have my ring back?"

DID IT HAPPEN?

The dreadful and fruitless search began again.

The ring was never found, though the guests stayed nearly till dawn—unwilling to be the first to leave, wishing to comfort my uncle (who though deeply calm was deeply stricken), and still hoping that from the shambles of the dining-room, the ring would somehow appear.

It never did appear, either then or later. My uncle Octavian, to the last, remained true to his rigid code, and adamant that no one was to be searched.

Sad Man

I myself went back to England, and school, a few days later. I was very glad to escape. The sight of my uncle's face, and the knowledge of his overturned world; were more than I could bear. All that he was left with, among the ruins of his way of life, was a question mark which of his intimate friends was the thief?

I do not know how, or on what scale my uncle Octavian "made amends." I know that he never returned to his lovely house near Cap d'Antibes, and that he remained a recluse for the rest of his days. I know that, to our family's surprise he was a comparatively poor man when he died. He died, in fact, a few weeks ago, and that is why I feel I can tell the story.

It would be wrong to say that he died a broken man, but he did die a profoundly sad one, with the special sadness of a hospitable host who never gave a single lunch or dinner, party for the last 20 years of his life.

WORLD COPYRIGHT RESERVED

DID IT REALLY HAPPEN?

YES NO

Put your tick in the space above and keep this page by you until tomorrow. When the answer has been given, you will know the truth.

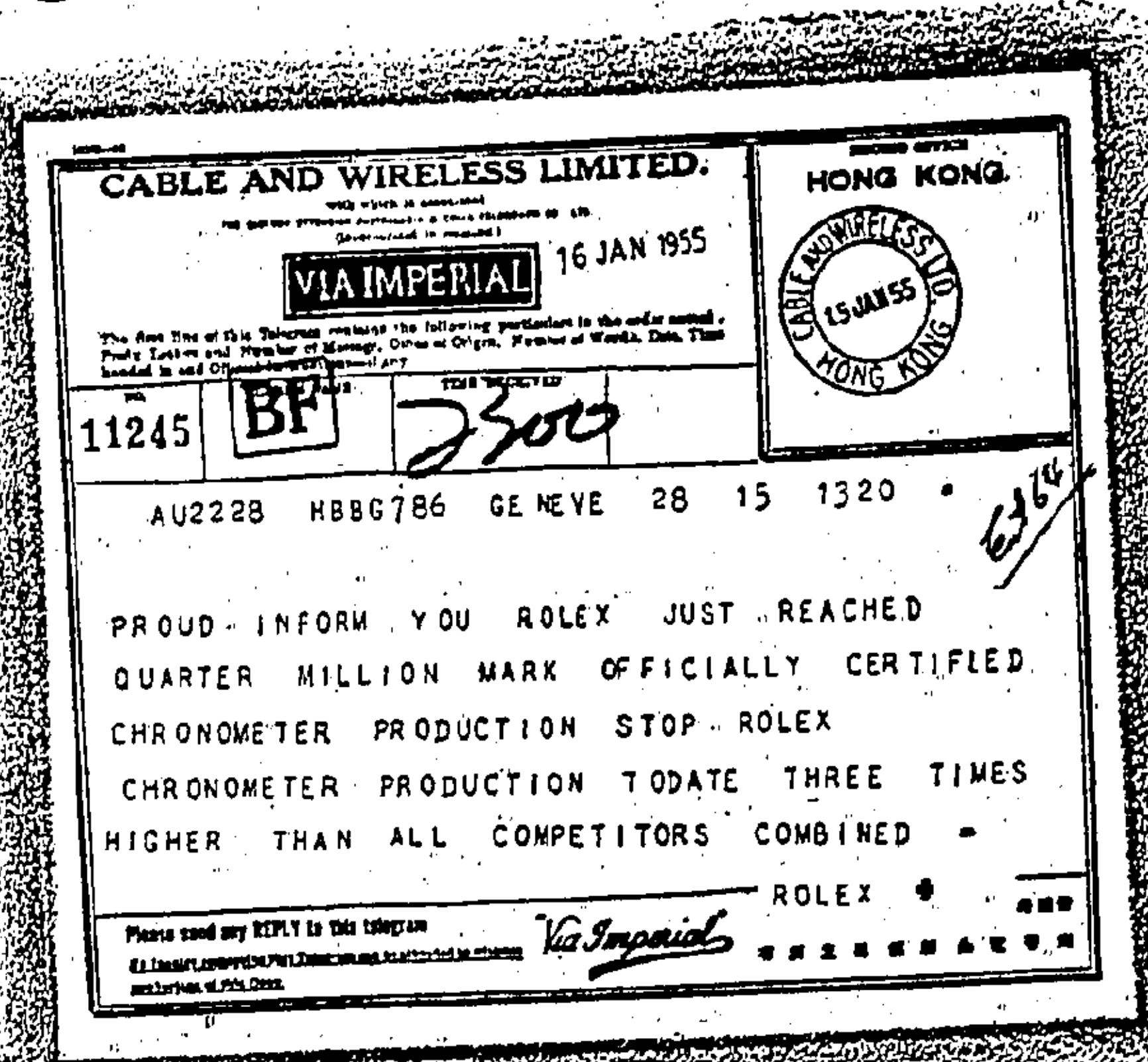
BERNARD TICKELL
© The story is a creation of Nick, by Michael Fawcett—originally published in *The Sunday Pictorial*.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Copies of photographs taken by the South China Morning Post, South China Sunday Post-Herald, and China Mail Staff Photographers are on view in the Morning Post Building.

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Triumph!



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A landmark in the history of Time measurement
Every Officially Certified Chronometer carries the Rolex Red Seal.

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(AFTERNOON)

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Personal \$5.00 per insertion
not exceeding 25 words, 25
cents each additional word.
ALTERNATE INSERTIONS
10% EXTRA
If not prepaid a booking fee
of 50 cents is charged.

DEATHS

SEIDICK—Mrs. Aysa Hassan Seidick
passed away peacefully at St.
Paul's Hospital this morning,
May 25, 1955. Funeral will take
place at the Mohammedan cemetery
at 5.30 p.m. today.

EDUCATIONAL

THE MARQUESS Accounting College
prepares students for London
Examinations by simple and in-
teresting methods. Beginners a
specialty. New classes will begin
on June 1st. For enrolment call at
Trinity College, 73A Waterloo Road,
between 3.30/7.00 p.m. daily.

WANTED KNOWN

DR. SCHOLLS' Foot Comfort Ser-
vice, Telephone House (Mezzanine)
Hong Kong provides the expert at-
tention your feet deserve — by London-
qualified chiropodist.

MUSICAL

FEW Westminster-Laboratory Series
are still available and never before
has the recorded sound been equal
to this. We carry large stock of
authentic Spanish Flamenco Music.
Available at D. Eason & Co., 2nd Floor,
Room 1, 2nd floor, telephone
30104.

STAMPS

SOMETHING EXCLUSIVE. Collec-
tors' packs of 20 assorted stamps.
From 20 cents to 10 pence. South
China Morning Post Ltd., Wyndham
Street, Hong Kong and Salisbury
Road, Kowloon.

STAMP ALBUMS — "Collection
Builder" series. New stock now
available. \$1.00 From South China
Morning Post Ltd., Wyndham
Street, Hong Kong and Salisbury
Road, Kowloon.

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Special — Announcements
and Classified Advertisements
as usual.

Hong Kong
Birds

Herkots, C. A. C. 1953.
Hong Kong Birds, Pp.
viii+233, 11 pls., 8 in
colour, numerous black-
and-white drawings in
text. Hong Kong: South
China Morning Post,
Ltd., HK\$35.00.

... a most welcome
handbook for ornitholo-
gists resident or station-
ed in Hong Kong. All
the hitherto recorded
species are included,
plumages are clearly and
concisely described, and
a short account is given
of field characters,
voice, habits, status,
etc. The illustrations,
except for three plates
of photographs, are all
by Cdr. A. M. Hughes,
and include four attrac-
tive plates of the heads
of 42 species and many
useful drawings in the
text. The writer of this
review would have
benefited greatly from
this book when station-
ed in Hong Kong some
years ago. Even now,
on referring to it, some
40 unfamiliar species
on which notes were
made at the time have
almost all proved easily
identifiable. — D. W. S.

(Extract from "The Bird" official
organ of the British Ornithologists'
Union, British Museum).

S. C. M. POST
HONG KONG KOWLOON

Summer Theatres Bring
'Bit Of Broadway'
To Every Corner Of America

New York, May 25.
As Broadway's theatres
begin slipping into their hot
weather siesta, playwrights
and players are ready to
begin their annual switch
from glamour in the big
town to paycheques in the
small ones.

Starting next month, they
will start showing up in the
scores of summer theatres
blossoming in the spring
countryside from coast to
coast. Openings are sched-
uled as early as June 1 and
most will run through the
month of August.

Spotted in nearly every
state in the Union, as the
accompanying map shows,
there will be about 80 loca-
tions playing straight
dramas and about 50 playing
musicals.

PACKAGE SHOWS

One of the notable fea-
tures of this year's pro-
gramme is the growth of
the "package shows" headed
by famous performers and
offering a single drama or
musical. They will tour from
one summer theatre to an-
other, replacing for a week
or two the resident com-
panies in each place.

Promoters will be eyeing
the summer receipts to see
whether this will be the
season such assembly line
"packages" take over com-
pletely from the old-fash-
ioned summer theatre where
a single company produces
a wide variety of shows during
its vacation stand at one
location. Summer theatre
producers readily admit that
rising costs of production
are making it more and
more difficult to present a
series of individual shows as
though each were a Broad-
way premiere.

Even though the number
of "summer theatres plan-
ning programme this season
is large, a number of old
ones have put up the "for
rent" sign. One reason is
another trend apparent in
summer stock—the decline
of the traditional small
playhouse. Outdoor theatres
in stadia and large tent
theatres can accommodate
much larger audiences than
the picturesque but tiny
barn. Therefore the former
can present shows for a
much smaller admission
charge than a theatre which
seats only 300 or so per-
sons.

WIDEST SELECTION

As usual, New England,
the Middle Atlantic states
and the Midwest are offering
the widest selection of sum-
mer theatre fare. One ex-
planation of this geographic
concentration is that show
people don't like to spend
their vacations too far from
Broadway—they want to
keep in economical long dis-
tance telephone range of
their agents, and they want
to be able to return quickly
for occasional radio or TV
appearances. States benefit-
ing most from this are
Massachusetts, Connecticut
and New Jersey.

Programmes scheduled
for such events as Helen Hayes'
appearance in a repertoire
of her past Broadway hits in a
drama festival at Ann
Arbor, Mich., to shows in
South Dakota, Idaho and
Texas where college
students are volunteering to
support established profes-
sional players.

Among the highlights in
Northeast billings are the
12-week season at the
famous lakeside playhouse
at Skowhegan, Me., the
11-week Gilbert and Sullivan
Festival at Monmouth, Me.,
and the 13-week season
producers Philip Langner
and Windsor Lewis have
planned at the famous
Country Playhouse in West-
port, Conn.



The mixture of programmes in
summer theatre is exemplified
in the Central City Opera House
in Colorado. On a stage high
in the Rocky Mountains, this
noted summer theatre will raise
the curtains in July to present
the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. of
London in four Gilbert and Sullivan
operas. Following this, the
past, the Central City resi-
dent company will perform four
modern plays through August.

Elitch Gardens in Denver be-
gins its 64th season as a sum-
mer theatre in late June. The
plan is to extend this summer
programme into a year-long
season with touring companies
playing Broadway hits, filling in
at times between performances
of the resident company.

An example of how small
towns can make a success of a
summer theatre is the Salt
Creek Theatre in Hinsdale, Ill.,
which begins a 14-week season
on June 6. Hinsdale has a popu-
lation of only 1,330 yet in
past summers the theatre there
has presented such stars as
Judith Anderson, Eibel Waters
and Charles Coburn. The secret
of its success is that it presents
only top stars in proven pro-
ductions—and is only 25 miles
from Chicago's loop.

Mantoloking, N.J., will again
present, from July 1 to September
14, the historic "Lost Colony"
dramatic spectacle which re-
quires 90 actors. A similar sum-
mer attraction is the outdoor
drama about Seminole Indians
in Safety Harbor, Fla.

In Virginia, Director Robert
Porterfield's noted Barrier
Theatre at Abingdon begins a
13-week season in June. This is
the playhouse where the guest
Broadway stars receive, as part
salary, a Virginia ham and an
acre of Virginia land.

In several places summer
theatres are being operated by
university drama groups, such
as the drama festival at the
University of Utah where pro-
fessional stars are supported by
student actors. This is particu-
larly widespread in Texas,
where the University of Texas,
Southern Methodist University,
Texas Christian University, Bay-
lor University, and the Univer-
sity of Houston operate footlight
programmes.

Japs Under Fire

London, May 25.
Sir William Crowford
Currie, Chairman of the
P. & O. Steam Navigation
Company, today criticised
the Japanese Government
for its policy of subsidising
shipping.
The Japanese policy
was not "in the best
commercial interest of
the country," he added.
China Mail Special.

Penal Experiment
For Girls

Paris, May 25.

A group of Protestant Deaconesses in Paris
are making a success of a method of treating
delinquent girls as if they were in a working girls'
hostel.

The deaconesses, members of the world-
wide Federation of Protestant Deaconesses with
an international office in Amsterdam, are carrying
out their penal experiment in a comfortable home
called "The Beehive" in the crowded East End of
Paris. Their method is to give the girls more and
more responsibility as they progress in the home
from detention to semi-freedom, including freedom
to have boy friends.

Their ambition is for the girls
to regard the Beehive as a
"home from home," whilst still
keeping contact with the earlier
home surroundings to which
they must eventually return—
properly adapted, it is hoped, to
fill an honest place there again.

The Beehive, with its own
gardens and sports fields, is
situated in spacious grounds
with a hospital, a Chapel and a
maternity clinic, all run by 33
Deaconesses of the French As-
sociation of Deaconesses, helped
by students from their nursing
school and outside doctors.

THREE YEARS

The Beehive is run by seven
sisters and novices. With the
help of a psychologist and lay
teachers, these work on the re-
habilitation of between 40 and
45 girls aged between 14 and 21
at a time. Each girl spends
about three years in the Bee-
hive.

A girl sent to the Beehive by
the juvenile justice authorities,
a social welfare service or even
by her own family, starts her
re-education by joining one of
two "families" of 12 or 13 girls.

Each "family" occupies one
floor of a building and each girl
has her own simply furnished
room which she can decorate
with curtains and where she
can keep her personal treasures
such as books and photographs.

Two Deaconesses look after
each family. Punishment con-

sists of confining a girl to her
room, or depriving her of pri-
vileges, such as Sunday outings.

Gradually, the newcomers
adapt themselves, the Deacon-
esses say. They lose their
initial hostility and attitudes
springing from a background of
immorality, theft, or parental
neglect.

ANOTHER LOVE

One of these attitudes was
summed up by a recent new-
comer, Louise, who is now a
happy, co-operative member of
the Beehive. Louise told a
Deaconess bluntly: "I don't give
a hoot for your spiritual
love. It is another sort of love
I want." While the girls are
settling down to a "stable life,"
they attend classes introducing
them to such subjects as science,
ancient history and English.
They also attend courses in
domestic science and child care.

The girls attend Bible-
reading sessions and prayers,
but no religious instruction is
given unless they ask for it.
Sometimes Catholic girls have
become Protestants, the Deacon-
esses say. Others have been
known to enter a Convent on
leaving the Beehive.

On Sundays, the girls are
taken on visits to museums,
theatres and cinemas in parties
of six or seven. In the summer,
they are taken on picnics.

After this stage, a girl is pro-
moted to the vital section of
the Deaconesses' rehabilitation
experiment—the "Home of
Semi-Freedom." An average of
eight girls a year qualify for
the move into this phase, which
concentrates on "progressive
readaptation to freedom" and
professional training.

DISCIPLINE RELAXED

Here, the discipline is re-
laxed. The girls go out every
day to follow courses in short-
hand, dressmaking and other
subjects. After work, they can
retire to their rooms or chat in
the gaily decorated common
sitting room.

On Sundays, they are free to
go out alone to theatres and
cinemas, join Girl Guide
groups, visit their families and
go out with boy friends.

The Deaconesses regard a
steady boy friend as a "stabilis-
ing influence" on the girls, pro-
vided that he has offered "a
minimum guarantee from a
moral point of view" by intro-
ducing her to his family and
calling on the Deaconesses.

Eventually, a girl is regard-
ed as fit to leave the Beehive
and return to normal life. Be-
tween eight and ten girls
"graduate" every year.

Tall, energetic Pastor Gustave
Lagny, who is director of the
Deaconesses' Association of
France, says that roughly three
quarters of the girls passing
through the Beehive are success-
fully rehabilitated from a social
point of view.

The Pastor, who studied
theology at Cambridge Univer-
sity, England, before World War
II, says that most of the girls
marry and have children. Many
return to visit their "old school"
with their children.

RETURN

Girls who find the pace of
outside life too trying are allow-
ed to return to the Beehive for
a short stay to "get away from
it all." And even the few fail-
ures may eventually return to
the Deaconesses' care, for they
have evangelists dealing with
former women prisoners and
prostitutes.

The delinquent children pass-
ing through the Beehive are only
a small part of some 2,000
girls arrested every year in
France for delinquency, 25 to 30
per cent of them for theft and
60 to 70 per cent for prostitu-
tion.

But the sisters claim that they
are at least showing a success-
ful way to rehabilitate minors
and keep them from crime.
Pastor Lagny says that the
French Justice authorities regard
the Beehive as one of the
"most successful" of the many
organisations in France which
deal with juvenile delinquents.
—China Mail Special.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN



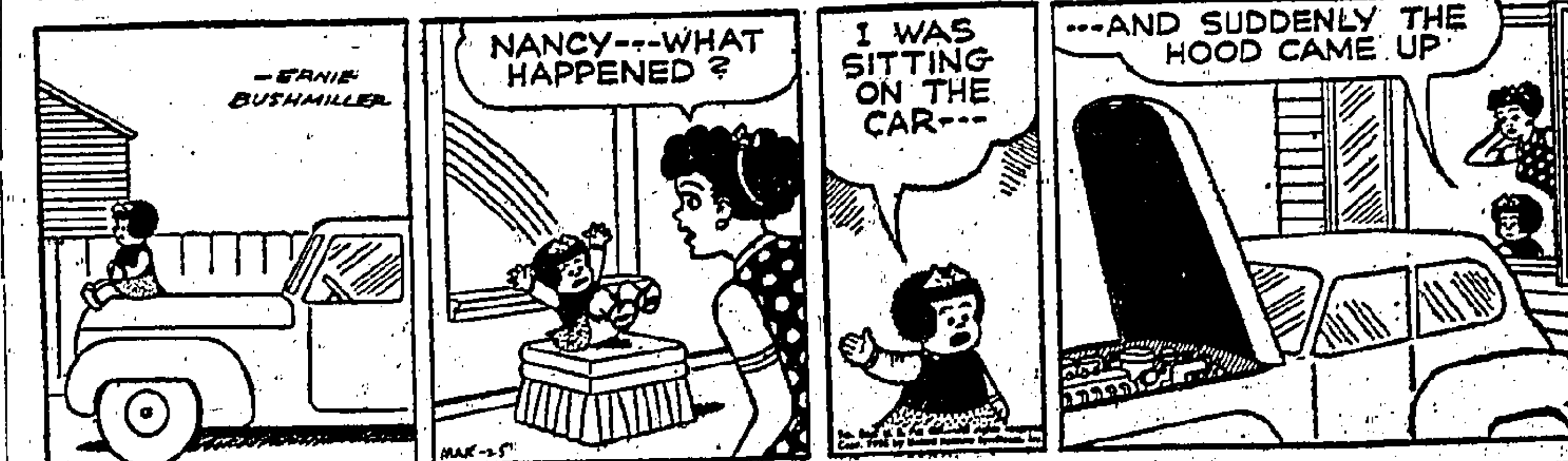
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

FERD'NAND



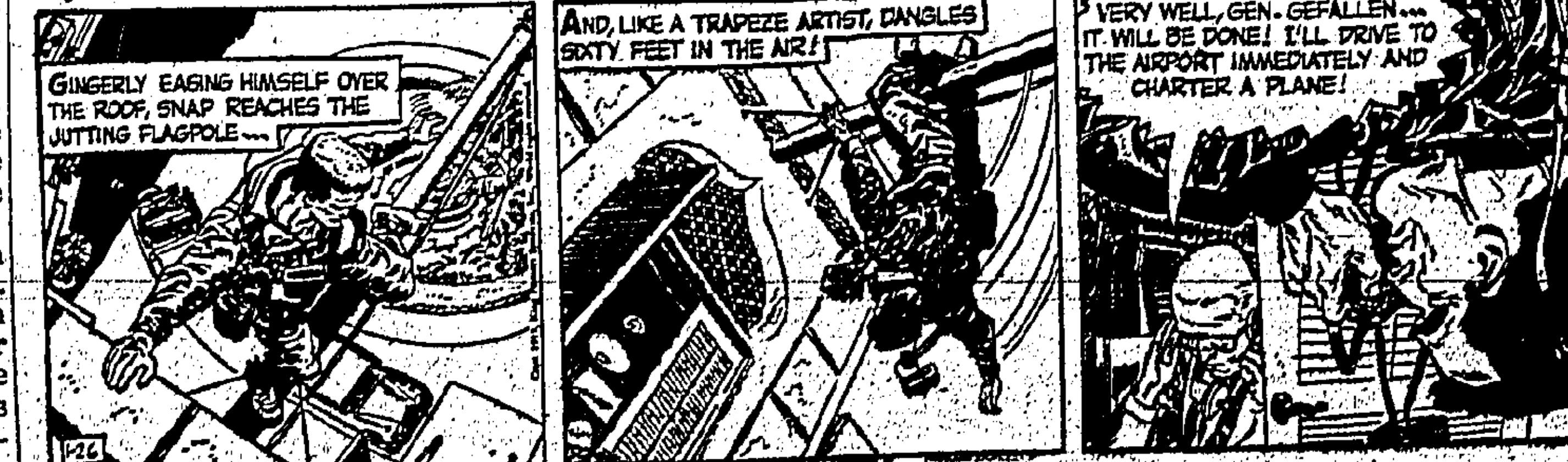
By Milk

NANCY

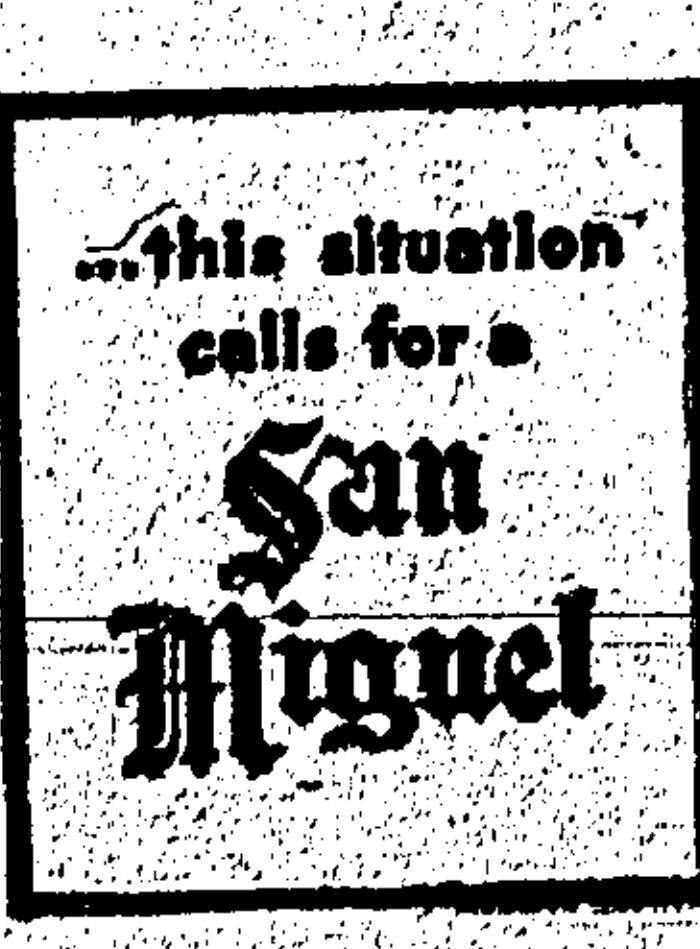
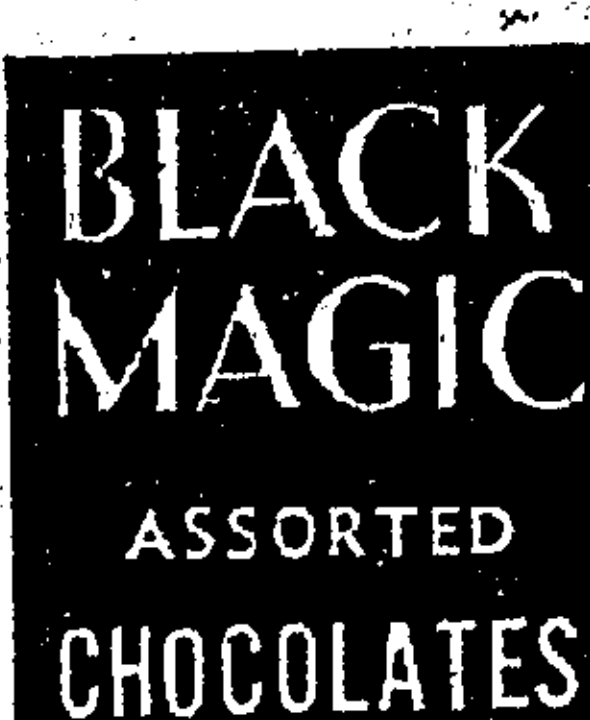


By Ernie Bushmiller

JOHNNY HAZARD



By Frank Robbins



TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Mr Michel Eyseuuo, Minister of Oil Industries Construction, was named Minister of the Oil Industry, while Alexis Korchunov, was named Minister of Oil Industries Construction.

It was the first time that the name of Mr Korchunov has appeared, and the decree did not mention what post he had held previously.—France-Press.

Texas Co.	91 1/2
Union Carbide	93 1/4
Union Pacific Railway	184 3/4
United Gas, Imp	73
U.S. Gypsum	259 1/2
U. S. Linc Co.	22 1/2
U.S. Rubber	48 1/2
U.S. Smelting	50 1/2
U.S. Steel	82 3/4
Warner Bros.	19 1/4
Westinghouse Electric	67 1/2
West Va. Pulp & Paper	45 1/4
Woolworth	47 1/2

—United Press.

SAO PAULO		March	3.20
Futures closings, in cruzeiros		April	3.20
per kilo were as follows:		May	3.20
July	30.90	June	3.20
Oct.	31.50	July	3.20
Nov.	31.50	Aug.	3.20
Dec.	31.50	Sept.	3.20
Jan.	31.50	Oct.	3.20
Mar.	34.40	Nov.	3.20
May	33.50	Dec.	3.20
Unavail.	Unavail.	Jan.	3.20
Sales at nine de-		Feb.	3.20
signated markets totalled 8,386		March	3.20
bales.—United Press.		April	3.20

FUTURES		
New York, May 2		
Prices of metal futures closed today in cents per lb. as follows		
Lead	May	14.2
	June	14.2
Tin	May	90.7
	June	90.7
Zinc	May	11.2
	June	11.2
Copper	May	39.6
	June	38.2
		—United Press

FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE	
"LAOS"	sailing June 20
"VIETNAM"	sailing July 17
FAST FREIGHT SERVICE	
"BIR HAKEIM"	sailing June 24
"MEKONG"	sailing July 8

SÃO PAULO

Futures closings, in cruzeiros per kilo were as follows:

July	30.00
Oct.	22.25
Dec.	21.00
Mar.	24.40
May	23.30

The spot price in the US was unavailable. Sales at nine designated markets totalled 3,482 bales.—United Press.

while lead was quiet. Prices closed today in sterling per long ton as follows:

	buyers	seller
Tin spot	715	715½
3-month	717½	718
Copper spot	330	313
3-month	313	314
Lead 2nd half May	103½	103
2nd half Aug.	102½	103
Zinc 2nd half May	96¼	96½
2nd half Aug.	83½	83

United Press.

March	3.21
May	3.22
July	3.22
Sept.	3.22
Spot—(cents per lb. fob Cuba)	3.33
Contract No. 8	
July	5.55
Sept.	5.55
Nov.	5.55
Dec.	5.55
March	5.53
May	5.54
Spot—(cents per lb. cif NY ex-duty)	5.55
—United Press.	

FUTURES		
New York, May 2		
Prices of metal futures closed today in cents per lb. as follows		
Lead	May	14.2
	June	14.2
Tin	May	90.7
	June	90.7
Zinc	May	11.2
	June	11.2
Copper	May	39.6
	June	38.2
		—United Press

FAST PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE	
"LAOS"	sailing June 20
"VIETNAM"	sailing July 17
FAST FREIGHT SERVICE	
"BIR HAKEIM"	sailing June 24
"MEKONG"	sailing July 8

CLARK CHAPMAN & CO., LTD.
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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1955.

SHEAFFER'S
"SNORKEL" PEN
ADMIRAL

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Going Down

HELEN was as pretty a girl as ever kicked the dust of the provinces off the heels of size four shoes and danced into London in search of fun, fame, and fortune.

Dark hair flowed back from her young, intelligent forehead, her tip-tilted nose, challenged the gravity of any situation, and her grey eyes imposed a trust that seemed binding upon anyone she looked at for more than a moment.

When she first appeared in the dock at Bow Street and pleaded guilty to being found drunk, that seemed no more than an accident, however regrettable.

PLOTS... PLANS
THEN Helen was shown into the dock for a second time on the same charge. And soon she was appearing nearly every month.

Small sad excerpts from her history were told. Help was proffered. Helen shrugged it away and went back to her bed-sitting room. She no longer dreamed of fame or fortune, and she dared not think of the future.

Ally she had time for was to plot and plan where the next drink could come from.

The other evening when this urgent problem she dwelt with had not been finally solved, Helen found herself at Victoria Station.

INDIFFERENT BUSES
IT was early, already Helen had drunk as much as would satisfy most people for some hours at least. But for her the drinks she had taken served only to give her a thirst.

Buses were congregating, as they do, before the station, and something about their stolid, scarlet respectability, the police difference to her, struck Helen like a whip's lash.

She clambered on to the platform of the nearest bus and began to scream blasphemies at the patient passengers inside. She was put off the bus, and tried to climb back.

She was called and she was taken away, crying out curses on London Transport, its patrons, the police, and all people in better plight than herself.

HUNTERS AND QUARRY
AT Bow Street next morning, when she was charged with being drunk and disorderly, Helen said grandly to the magistrate, Sir Laurence Dummer: "No, sir, I don't plead guilty this morning. For the first time, I plead not guilty."

Her soft voice was all that was left to remind you of her as she had been a year or two before, before too much drinking drove away her colour and drew deep lines in her face. Her hair now was a tangled, uncombed mop, and there was a hunted look in her eyes. She was the huntress—and the quarry.

The story was briefly told, then Sir Laurence asked Helen what she had to say.

IT'S JUST A TRAGEDY
"I know me," she cried. "I'm just a tragedy. I'm past redemption. But I don't want to be victimised."

"I was keyed up last night, but I wasn't drunk. Don't, don't let me be victimised. All I can do is ask for justice—the first is up to you."

The chief magistrate nodded towards the gaffer that he had found the case proved.

"Six times this year, sir," the gaffer said, taking his cue. Sir Laurence turned to Helen. "You call yourself a tragedy," he said, "and to you are. You cannot leave this drink alone. Pay 40s, or go to prison for 28 days."

Helen had no money for the fine. She shrugged and went away, slowly, like an old, tired woman—Helen, who a year or two ago had been so gay and pretty, and who now was coming close to the point of no return to happiness.

UNION INSURANCE SETS A NEW RECORD Premiums Exceed £10,000,000

At the annual general meeting of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., held this morning in Union Building, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hon. C. Blaker, M.C., ED., was able to inform shareholders that for the first time the aggregate net premium for Marine, Fire and Accident business had passed £10,000,000.

This, he observed, was a notable figure, particularly in these days of severe competition.

Reporting on the year's activities, the Chairman said:

In my Statement upon the Society's affairs which accompanied the printed Accounts I have remarked upon the matters mainly affecting our Underwriting Accounts during the twelve months under review and I would now draw your attention to a record which has been achieved but is not self-evident from the Revenue Accounts. The aggregate net premium for Marine, Fire and Accident business has for the first time surpassed ten million pounds. This is a notable figure, particularly in these days of severe competition.

The clash of ideologies in the Far East and the intensification of the struggle between the East and West, as again last year, have been the days when oriental wars could settle their differences locally without creating a ripple on the international scene. The terror of modern contrivances of war involving as they would the very existence of civilisation, is already sufficiently realised to make any threat of the subject of immediate international investigation in an endeavour to prevent the beginning of a universal holocaust.

In the short years since 1945 the Society's Far Eastern background has thus become merged into the far wider framework of the world's political picture.

ACCOUNT EXPANDS
Turning now to our Revenue Accounts the premium received in the Marine Department shows a fall of £78,922 from £3,492,101 to £3,413,179. This does not indicate a reduction in marine liabilities assumed; in fact the reverse is the case and our Marine Account continues to expand. The lower aggregate premium is due to the need to meet competition on a world-wide basis coupled with an appreciable reduction in war risk rates for most voyages during the last quarter of the year.

The substantial Marine fund representing more than 18½% of the 1954 premium is considered fully adequate to meet all outstanding losses.

The year has been reasonably free of major disasters in the Marine field but fires, collisions and particularly theft and pilferage claims have resulted in a loss ratio to premium of 14½%. Whilst the present scramble for Marine cargo business continues and indiscriminate rate cutting is a feature of many markets, we can look for little if any improvement in the percentage of losses to premiums.

GOOD RESULTS
The Fire Department continues to produce particularly good results in spite of 1954 having been beset by a series of catastrophes in the areas in which we operate. Three severe hurricanes were experienced on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, two of which swept into Canada causing much devastation. Extensive damage was also caused by the March earthquake in Adelaide and by a conflagration in Winnipeg. Despite a moderate setback from these calamities a satisfactory profit margin was obtained.

The Fire fund has been further strengthened and at the impressive figure of £2,007,079 not only provides the requisite normal reserve for annual policies but also the longer-term contracts customary in Canada and America, but protects the account against possible adversity resulting from exceptional losses of catastrophic proportions.

I have again to record substantial progress in the Accident and General business where the premium income has increased by £461,556 to £2,090,024. The underwriting of Motor Insurance continues to present difficulties in certain fields and these are reflected in a higher claims ratio to premium than that for the previous year. Acquisition costs were also somewhat higher in 1954. After taking into account the substantially increased sum retained for unexpected risks called for by the increased premium, a profit of £22,075 is realised.

INTERESTS PROTECTED
Shareholders will, I am sure, appreciate this safeguarding of their interests and the fact that this capitalisation of reserves brings the Society's Issued Capital more into line with the larger resources employed as a result of expansion in recent years.

In conformity with the Society's policy to build its reserves commensurate with its expanding liabilities the General Reserve has been increased to £1,500,000 which will be the amount of the Issued Capital if the resolutions to be placed before the Extraordinary General Meeting are passed.

It is once again my pleasure to record the enthusiastic and loyal service of our staff and agents who contribute so much to our progress and development.

NEW CAPITAL
An extraordinary general meeting which followed the Ordinary Yearly Meeting, two resolutions were approved. They were to increase the issued

capital of the Society from £1,350,000 to £1,500,000 by the creation of fifteen thousand new shares of £10 each and to employ a sum of £150,000 for this purpose from the undivided profits of the Society standing to the credit of the Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account, and that such shares credited as fully paid up be distributed amongst the shareholders who on May 26, 1955 were registered shareholders of the Society, in the proportion of one new share for every nine then held.

Both resolutions were proposed by the Chairman, the first being seconded by Mr. A. W. Black and the second by Mr. B. W. Bradbury. Both were adopted.

The above two meetings were preceded by the annual general meeting of the British Traders Insurance Co. Ltd. and the North Pacific Insurance Co. Ltd. Present were:

Hon. C. Blaker, M.C., E.D. (Chairman), Messrs. B. T. Flanagan, J. H. Hamm, H. Owen Hughes, J. P. Macgregor (Directors), L. B. Stone (General Manager) and D. B. Sinclair (Assistant General Manager).

Messrs. H. J. Armstrong, A. W. Black, C. C. Baker, B. W. Bradbury, J. L. Bray, T. H. C. Brayfield, N. V. A. Croucher (representing Commonwealth Investment Ltd. and Kelly & Walsh Ltd.), H. B. L. Dowbiggin, A. Drummond, P. Dunt, S. M. Garrard, H. M. C. Goovey, J. I. Corrie Hill, J. Dickson, Leach, H. S. Lee, J. B. H. Leckie, C. Maclean, J. A. Martin (representing Union Ltd.), K. A. Miller (representing Lowe Bingham & Matthews), J. R. Padgett, D. L. Prophet (representing Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co.), L. R. Ralph, J. A. Remedios, Mrs. E. M. Stopani-Thomson, E. H. Smyth, Wat Lum, and R. Zindell.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN CLASH
Gaza, May 25.
Egyptian anti-aircraft guns put up a 15-minute barrage today, to force an Israeli plane to leave Egyptian airspace, it was reported here.

Egypt has sent a strong protest to the United Nations Commission over the unauthorized flight—France-Press.

US Exports To HK Up
Washington, May 25.
United States exports to Hong Kong climbed sharply during March, the US Department of Commerce announced today.

Imports from Hong Kong remained at the same level as in February, however.

The Department, in a report on trade for March, said US exports to Hong Kong during March totaled US\$6,700,000, compared to US\$6,000,000 during February. Imports from the Colony totaled US\$1,200,000, the same figure as for February.

The Commerce Department said further that overall trade with Asia gained in both directions during March. Imports increased from Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines—United Press.

Public Mischief Charge
LAC Mohammed Noor Din Ahmad, member of the RAF Regiment, Kai Tak, was remanded for three clear days in RAF custody by Mr. T. Crendon at Kowloon this morning on a charge of public mischief.

Defendant was alleged to have made a false statement to the Police on May 22, stating that he was robbed on that day of \$140, thus "temporarily depriving the public of the service of the said public officers liege subject of the Queen liable to suspicion, accusation and arrest; and in doing so, did unlawfully effect public mischief."

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Robbery With Knives Accusation

Chan Chi-ping, 32, and Chan Shing, alias Hak Chai, 22, appeared before Mr. T. Crendon at Kowloon this morning charged with robbery of a couple while armed with knives at 3 Sin Lai Wan, Lai-chikok, on May 22.

It was alleged that one of the victims, Lam Siu-kan, was robbed of a wrist watch, a fountain pen, an electric torch and \$7.50, while his woman companion, Ko Kit-fong, was relieved of a finger-ring and a purse containing \$1.80. Both defendants were remanded for three days for further enquiries.

WOMAN'S DESPERATE PLIGHT
An expectant mother told Mr. T. Crendon at Kowloon Court this morning that she was "in desperate financial circumstances" when she pawned two sewing machines without the authority of their owner.

The woman, Liu Ying-lin, 34, of no fixed abode, was charged with unlawfully pawning the machines, and was bound over in \$500 for one year.

She told Mr. Crendon that she had two daughters and no son to support. Her husband, she added, was a former Hong Kong businessman and was now under detention by the Communists in China. She had been ill and there was no one to look after her children.

The two machines were valued at \$250 each and had been pawned for \$100. They were the property of Wong Chiu.

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2 Men Appeal Against Death Sentence

An appeal against sentence of death was brought by Yam Kwan-pak, alias Ah Kwan, 20, and Ho Kwong-tang, alias Ah Tang, 22, before the Full Court this morning.

Appellants were found guilty of the murder of Lui Shing, Police Constable No. 558 on December 6, 1954, and sentenced to death by Mr. Justice J. R. Gregg on March 7.

Mr. Perry Chen was re-assigned to appear for the first appellant, instructed by Messrs Wilkinson and Grist.

Appearing for the second appellant was Mr. W. K. Loo, privately instructed by Messrs Woo and Woo.

The Crown was represented by Mr. J. C. McRobert, Crown Counsel.

The Full Court comprised the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Justice T. J. Gould and the Acting Puisne Judge, Mr. Justice James Wickes.

Mr. Chen said that in presenting the appeal, he would first deal with the facts and he referred to the opening of the Senior Crown Counsel at the trial.

THE FACTS
Counsel said that the facts were that sometime previous to December 6 a young boy, Wong Wah-ling, was playing a ball game in the Pul Tung playground in Kowloon. He had an altercation with another man, named Lam, and blows were struck. Thereafter Wong met his friend Yuen Kin-sang who introduced him to second appellant. Second appellant then invited the two youths to go to a rooftop in Yir Cheung Street.

Mr. Chen submitted that in the Crown's opening, an untrue statement was made, to which he did not object at the time. He asked the Court to reconsider whether the description of the second appellant and his associates at the early stage of the case might not have prejudiced the minds of the jury against second appellant. Counsel referred the Court to the record in which Crown Counsel stated: "We say of course that this hut on the rooftop of No. 17 (Yir Cheung Street) was a hideout or retreat of a gang of very unscrupulous young men, members of an organisation called the 14-K and that these three accused are of that gang. We say further that the second accused is the leader of that gang although he did not strike the first blow, we say he is the leader of that gang."

The facts were that there was an initiation ceremony of some kind going on at the time.

BOY'S EVIDENCE
On December 6 a schoolboy, Yuen Kin-sang was travelling home by bus from his school in Woosung Street, which was near to the Jordan Road Ferry pier, and he passed this Hungghom playground in the afternoon. He stated in his evidence that he saw Liu with Wong Wah-ling in the playground. He then went home and after his meal went to the Sung Wong Toi playground, which was near to Kai Tak. There he stated—and Counsel said there was no corroboration of this statement—that he met first and second appellants and a third man who was tried with the two appellants in the lower Court. This man, Counsel said, was Lam Fak, brother of the first appellant. Counsel further stated that it was a fact that these two men were very similar in appearance; there was evidence of that on the record.

Continuing, Counsel said that according to the story of Yuen Kin-sang, these four persons proceeded to the Pul Tung playground, which was between the Bailey shipyard and Kai Tak, and there in Wong Wah-ling, Mr. Chen pointed out that Wong in his evidence did not corroborate Yuen because Wong did not say that first appellant and his brother were together with the second appellant at the time, so that the statement of Yuen—that the Crown eventually admitted to be an accomplice—that first appellant and his brother went with them from Sung Wong Toi playground to the Pul Tung playground was not corroborated.

CROWN'S CASE
They did not find at the Pul Tung playground Liu whom they set out to find, because this person was at the Hungghom playground at the time. The five men then went to the Hungghom playground and there it was alleged that a fracas took place.

The case of the Crown, Counsel said, was that this fight took place as a result of a pre-arranged rendezvous to go to the Hungghom playground and engage in a common enterprise or common design which in the words of the Senior Crown Counsel was intended to overcome any resistance, said Mr. Chen.

After reading from the record, Mr. Chen said that the allegation by the Crown in the opening was that first appellant wielded a knife and the second appellant a bicycle chain. No allegation was made against the third accused (first appellant's brother).

Mr. Chen said he would like to draw the Court's attention to that particularly because as it turned out the third accused was acquitted as the learned Trial Judge directed that there was no evidence against him.

As to whether the rendezvous was arranged or not arranged, it was a fact that there was a fight, inasmuch as it was alleged that first appellant was the person who struck the fatal blow. If the question of common design did arise, Counsel submitted that the weight of the evidence was to that effect that the fight in that playground took place spontaneously and not by pre-arrangement. He said up to that point because evidence of pre-arrangement was all given by the accomplices. Up to that point the youths, Wong and Yuen, were together with the second appellant and other persons.

Mr. Chen said that there was some hearsay evidence adduced by the Crown to show that Wong Wah-ling knew that deceased was a policeman at the time. Yuen had stated in evidence that he was told by Wong that deceased was a policeman and he then told this to the second appellant.

Hearing is continuing.

From Our Files 100 Years Ago

At the last Sessions of the Criminal Court, we chanced to be present during the trial of ten men, who, it seemed to